

Fiber material partially impregnated with a resin

Publication number: AU740110B

Publication date: 2001-11-01

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Classification:

- International: C08J5/24; B29B15/10; B29B15/12; B29C70/06;
C08J5/24; B29B15/10; B29C70/06; (IPC1-7): C08J5/24;
B29B15/10; B29C70/06

- European: B29B15/10B; B29B15/12B

Application number: AU19980061449 19980206

Priority number(s): US19970795632 19970206; WO1998US02158
19980206

Also published as:

WO9834979 (A1)

EP0960155 (A1)

US6565944 (B1)

US6139942 (A1)

EP0960155 (A0)

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A partially impregnated preform employs a fiber layer partially impregnated with a resin to form a fiber reinforced resin composite. The fiber layer of the partially impregnated preform is formed of a plurality of parallel oriented tows, each tow formed of a plurality of unidirectional reinforcement fibers. The resin is partially impregnated on one or both faces of the fiber layer. A resin composition for partially impregnating a fiber layer of a preform is also provided. A stack of partially impregnated preforms utilizes a plurality of partially impregnated preforms. The stack of partially impregnated preforms may be cross-ply reinforced by cross-ply stitching the stack of partially impregnated preforms together prior to curing to form a fiber reinforced resin composite upon curing. A method of forming a fiber reinforced resin composite including the steps of: enclosing a partially impregnated preform in a resin content control envelope; enclosing the resin content control envelope in a vacuum envelope; evacuating said vacuum envelope and said resin content control envelope; and heating while simultaneously evacuating the vacuum envelope and the resin content control envelope to melt and fully infuse the resin into said fiber layer and, then, to cure therein.

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